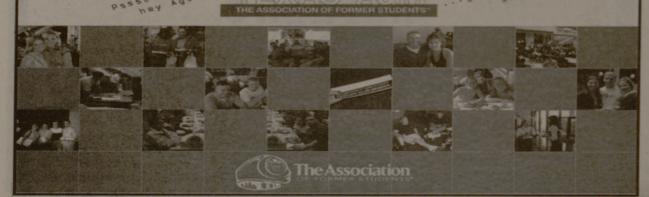
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## THE BATTALION

### SPRING '03 STAFF APPLICATION

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gain valuable experience
earn extra cash
make friends in a professional newsroom environment

Name: Phone number: \_

Cellphone or pager:

Major: \_

Classification: \_

Credit hours you will take in the spring \_\_

Expected graduation (semester): \_

How many hours per week would you be available for work at The Battalion?

ALL APPLICANTS: Please type your responses on a separate piece of paper, and attach a résumé and samples of your work (stories you have written for publications or classes, pages you have designed, photos taken, drawings made or other creative samples—just show us what you can do).

#### **Section Editor Applicants**

- 1) What are your goals for managing your staff?
- 2) What do you believe is the role of the section for which you are applying?
- What changes would you make to improve The Battalion? Pay particular attention to the position for which you're

#### Staff Applicants

- 1) Why do you want to work at The Battalion, and what do you hope to accomplish?
- What experience do you have that relates to the position for which you are applying? (include classes, seminars, etc.)
- What changes do you feel would improve the quality of The Battalion? Give special attention to the section for which you're applying.

#### Feature / Entertainment Sports Writer Radio Reporter Opinion Columnist Page Designer Copy Editor Photographer Graphic Artist

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\_\_ Managing Editor

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\*Assistant editor positions available

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Sci | Tech Writer

News\*

AggieLife\*

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Sci | Tech

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Photo\*

Please check the position(s)

ested. If you are interested

in more than one position,

number them in order of

preference with "1" being

for which you are inter-

INCLUDE:

DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13. Turn in applications at 014 (basement) Reed McDonald Bldg. Interviews will begin immediately after application deadline.

Extra applications available in the newsroom or online at http://www.thebatt.com

Friday, December 13, 2002

# November sales book Bu may keep economy to

WASHINGTON (AP) -Energized shoppers boosted retail figures. sales at the nation's retailers in November by the largest amount in three months, reinforcing the belief that consumer spending will keep the economy out of a new recession.

The Commerce Department report Thursday that retail sales in November were 0.4 percent higher than in October also raised hopes that the holiday shopping season will see people acting more like Santas than the Grinches some had feared.

Shoppers hit the stores with more enthusiasm in November than in the previous two months: Retail sales fell by 1.5 percent in September and edged up by just 0.1 percent in October.

The urge to splurge started to creep back into consumers' spending patterns," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors. "The fears that households would not visit the malls appear to be unfounded."

Excluding automobile sales, which can swing widely from month to month, retail sales rose by 0.5 percent in November, a stronger performance than the 0.2 percent rise economists were forecasting.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all economic activity in the United States. It has been the main force keeping the economy going this year.

"Good retail sales are America's Christmas gift to itself," Commerce Secretary Don Evans said of November's

Tracy Mullin, president of the National Retail Federation, also was encouraged by November's retail report and predicted holiday sales this year would be around 4 percent higher than last year.

Low interest rates, tax cuts and extra cash from refinancing of home mortgages have supported consumer spending, helping to offset potentially negative forces such as a stagnant labor market and a bumpy stock market.

"We believe this infusion of cash can keep spending going through this winter," said Merrill Lynch economist Gerald Cohen. "But if consumer spending is going to continue to grow, the job picture needs to improve sooner rather than later."

The Labor Department reported new claims for unemployment benefits shot up by a seasonally adjusted 83,000 to 441,000 last week, the highest level since the middle of April. Analysts said the increase was exaggerated by seasonal adjustment problems, but they still predicted a sluggish job market in the months ahead.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down 50.74 points at 8,538.40.

Witnesses, for lack

- Paul Ebert

prosecutor

of a better word, tend

to ham it up.

The Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged Tuesday, after slashing rates by a bold half-point at its previous meeting on Nov. 6. That was the first rate cut this year.

Home matters

With the comforts of hor mind, shoppers pusher sales of fumiture and hi supplies in November

Percent

"A relatively aggre ng action could help to esiden that the current soft spot economy would prove grees temporary and enhancet of a robust rebound in activity next year," the R in minutes of the N

In another report, the the broadest measure of the rowed in the third quarte Weigh billion, from a \$127.6 shortfall in the second q v for th nt said Commerce Department s

The "current account measures not only the between countries, ay our investment flows and was a c mfaithfu transfers, including U.S. aid payments.

### TV cameras banned in sniper can

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) — A judge Thursday barred television cameras from next year's trial of sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad, saying such media coverage could compromise his right to a fair trial.

Prince William County Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. also said trial would begin Oct. 14 and he set aside eight weeks for what is expected to be a closely watched case.

The Radio-Television News Directors Association said it was considering an appeal.

"It is unfortunate that the most neutral and accurate means of presenting the trial has been banned," said Barbara Cochran, president of the association.

Muhammad, 41, is charged with capital murder in the death of Dean Harold Meyers of Gaithersburg, Md., who was shot Oct. 9 while not a salacious matter," she said. ueling his car at a gas station in Prince William County.

Meyers was one of 13 people hit — 10 fatally — by sniper fire during a three-week shooting spree in suburban Washington, D.C. Muhammad and 17-year-old John Lee Malvo are suspected in all 13, as well as eight other shootings across the country.

The youngest victim of the spree was Iran Brown, who was 13 when he was critically wounded outside his Bowie, Md., school. He was released from a hospital last month and appeared with first lady Laura Bush on Thursday as she visited hospitalized children.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys putting TV cameras in the courtr Muhammad's trial. Prosecutor Paul Ebe the coverage would detract from cou decorum. He has said his experience w Lorena Bobbitt penis-s

trial, which was televise vinced him that TV ca are problematic.

'The court well knows one point in time I had no o tion to live coverage, bu changed my mind based o sonal experience," he "Witnesses, for lack of a word, tend to ham it up."

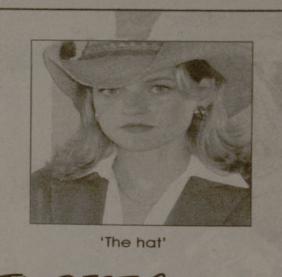
news directors association ed the comparison between this case an Bobbitt case. "This is not a celebrity matter,

day-to-day basis. Defense attorneys Greenspun and Jonathan Shapiro had objected

that; Ebert did not. Greenspun and Shapiro had argued in papers that TV cameras could lead to salu

media coverage that would taint the jury pot deny Muhammad the right to a fair trial. "Although an extensive, legitimate publi

the public might want to watch this trial, the cannot ignore the constitutional rights accused," the attorneys wrote.





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